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2 What is claimed is:

3  
4 1. A method for time-shifted viewing of broadcast audio/video programs  
5 comprising:  
6       the step of receiving one or more broadcast video/audio programs; and  
7       the step of storing said programs as data in a cyclic buffer wherein upon being  
8       filled said cyclic buffer begins replacing the oldest of said data with the newest of said  
9       data; and  
10      the step of providing simultaneous playback control of said data independently  
11     from said step of storing said programs wherein said playback control comprises random  
12     access play, stop, pause, rewind and fast-forward functions;  
13      whereby said time-shifted viewing is selectively delayed relative to initiation of  
14     said broadcast audio/video programs and which may be initiated and controlled  
15     simultaneously with said storing of said programs.

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17 2. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:  
18       the step of moving said program data from the cyclic buffer to one or more  
19     storage devices for archival of said program data;  
20       wherein said one or more storage devices are used for selective retrieval, playback  
21     and control of said programs.

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23 3. A method as in claim 2 further comprising:  
24       the step of storing data representing user-control of playback of said programs on  
25     one or more storage devices;  
26       wherein said user-control playback data is stored for later use.

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28 4. A method as in claim 3 further comprising:  
29       the step of transmitting said user-control playback data to one or more receivers;  
30       wherein said user-control playback data is processed externally from the present  
31     system.

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33 5. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:  
34       the step of receiving broadcast program configuration data;  
35       wherein said broadcast program configuration data is used for system  
36     configuration for one or more particular broadcast programs.

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38 6. A system for time-shifted viewing of broadcast audio/video programs comprising:  
39       video input means for receiving one or more broadcast video/audio programs; and  
40       cyclic buffer means for storing said programs as program data in a cyclical  
41     fashion wherein upon being filled, said cyclic buffer begins replacing the oldest data with  
42     the newest of said data and is operable for simultaneous reading and writing of the said  
43     data; and  
44       viewing playback means for providing playback control of said data  
45     independently from the storing of said programs wherein said playback control comprises  
46     random access playback, stop, pause, rewind and fast-forward functions;

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1        whereby said time-shifted viewing is selectively delayed relative to initiation of  
2        said broadcast audio/video programs and which may be initiated and controlled  
3        simultaneously with said storing of said programs.

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5        7. A system as in claim 6 further comprising:  
6            archive means for semi-permanent storage of said program data;  
7            whereby said archive means is used as a save function for selective retrieval,  
8            playback and control of program data.

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10      8. A system as in claim 7 further comprising:  
11            viewer playback control capture means for the capture and storage of user  
12            playback control data;  
13            whereby said viewer playback control data is stored on said archive means

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15      9. A system as in claim 8 further comprising:  
16            data transmission means for transmitting said viewer playback control data away  
17            from said system;  
18            wherein said viewer playback control data is analyzed externally from said  
19            system.

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21      10. A system as in claim 9 further comprising:  
22            data reception means for receiving broadcast program configuration data;  
23            wherein said broadcast program configuration data is operative for configuration  
24            of system options of said system for the recording of one or more broadcast programs.

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26      11. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:  
27            said step of receiving one or more broadcast video/audio programs is  
28            operable simultaneously on one or more channels and;  
29            said step of storing occurs simultaneously for said one or more channels;  
30            wherein any of said stored programs from said one or more channels are  
31            accessible for said playback and said time-shifted viewing.

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33      12. A system as in claim 6 further comprising:  
34            said video input means receives one or more broadcast video/audio  
35            programs  
36            simultaneously on one or more channels and;  
37            said cyclic buffer storage means stores said data simultaneously for said  
38            one or more channels;  
39            wherein any of said stored programs from said one or more channels are  
40            accessible for said  
41            playback and said time-shifted viewing.

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43      13. A method as in claim 11 further comprising:  
44            said step of receiving one or more broadcast video/audio programs is  
45            operable simultaneously on two or more channels which are numerically adjacent

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2 14. A system as in claim 6 further comprising:  
3       said video input means receives one or more broadcast video/audio  
4       programs simultaneously on two or more numerically adjacent channels.  
5  
6 15. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:  
7       the step of storing programming data which represents a selection of one  
8       or more programs to be recorded and stored in said cyclic buffer.  
9  
10 16. A system as in claim 6 further comprising:  
11       programming means to select one or more broadcast programs to be recorded and  
12       stored using said storage means;  
13       wherein any of said stored programs from said one or more channels are  
14       accessible for said playback and said time-shifted viewing.  
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